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SPM-ROSTON

BY HENRY S. BRADSHAW

WASHINGTON STAR SERVICE

WASHINGTON - PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS BROKEN A DEADLOCK ON ARMS CONTROL APPOINTMENTS BY NAMING A STRONG ADVOCATE OF GREATER U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH, EUGENE V. ROSTON, TO HEAD THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY.

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT WEDNESDAY THAT ROSTON'S NAME WOULD BE SENT TO THE SENATE DID NOT MENTION WHO WOULD BE THE CHIEF NEGOTIATOR WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR MATTERS. OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES SAID RETIRED LT. GEN. EDWARD L. ROWNY HAD BEEN OFFERED AND HAD ACCEPTED THIS POST WITHIN THE ARMS CONTROL AGENCY.

THIS SEEMED TO END CONFUSION THAT HAD SURROUNDED THE TWO POSTS. IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM HIS OFFICE AT THE YALE LAW SCHOOL, ROSTON SAID HE THOUGHT ALL THE DIFFICULTIES ABOUT THE POSTS HAD BEEN REMOVED AND HE HOPED TO WORK WITH ROWNY. ROWNY DECLINED TO COMMENT PUBLICLY.

FURTHER PROBLEMS MIGHT ARISE ON CAPITOL HILL, HOWEVER. SOME CONSERVATIVE SENATORS, LED BY JESSE HELMS, R-N.C., HAVE INDICATED RELUCTANCE TO APPROVE ROSTON'S NOMINATION UNLESS ASSURED THAT HIS DEPUTY WILL BE SOMEONE THEY APPROVE. THE SENATORS WANT A KNOWN HAWK TO BALANCE ROSTON, WHOM THEY SUSPECT OF LIBERAL TENDENCIES DESPITE HIS ADVOCACY OF GREATER MILITARY STRENGTH.

THE WHITE HOUSE ALSO ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY ANOTHER NOMINATION THAT IS NOT LIKELY TO ENCHANT HELMS AND SENATE CONSERVATIVES. THE PRESIDENT CHOSE THOMAS G. ENDERS, WHO WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS UNDER HENRY A. KISSINGER, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

HELMS HAS OPPOSED THE ENDERS NOMINATION, AND IN FACT HAS A CANDIDATE OF HIS OWN FOR THAT JOB.

ROSTON, THE CHOICE FOR THE ARMS CONTROL POST, SAID YESTERDAY THE WHITE HOUSE HAD GIVEN HIM A LONG LIST OF POSSIBLE DEPUTIES. HE WAS FREE TO ADD OTHER NAMES AND HAD NOT MADE ANY DECISION, HE SAID.

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ROSTON ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD ANY SUGGESTION OF A POLITICAL DEAL FOR HIS NOMINATION TO GO THROUGH THE SENATE IF HE SELECTED A DEPUTY SATISFACTORY TO CONSERVATIVES ON CAPITOL HILL.

"ON MATTERS LIKE THIS I BELIEVE IN THE SEPARATION OF POWERS," ROSTON COMMENTED WITH A LAUGH.

THE NAMES SUGGESTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE DEPUTY JOB INCLUDED THOMAS R. PICKERING, A STATE DEPARTMENT CAREER MAN WHO HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN AND IS NOW STUDYING SPANISH FOR ANOTHER AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT; MICHAEL PILLSBURY, A FORMER CIA ANALYST AND CONGRESSIONAL AIDE WHO HAS BEEN ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY SINCE THE REAGAN TRANSITION TEAM TOOK IT OVER; AND W. SCOTT THOMPSON, A REAGAN ADVISER ON STRATEGIC MATTERS.

HELMS AND OTHER SENATORS RECOMMENDED PILLSBURY TO REAGAN FOR THE DEPUTY'S JOB. HELMS ALSO BACKED RONNY FOR THE AGENCY'S DIRECTORSHIP. IN EARLY MARCH WHITE HOUSE AIDES BEGAN CLEARING RONNY'S APPOINTMENT TO THE TOP JOB WITH KEY MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BUT NOTHING FURTHER HAPPENED UNTIL IT BECAME KNOWN THAT REAGAN HAD CHOSEN ROSTON.

CONFUSION THEN DEVELOPED ABOUT RONNY'S ROLE. IF HE BECAME CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR STRATEGIC ARMS MATTERS, WOULD HE REPORT TO REAGAN OR ROSTON? OFFICIALS SAID WEDNESDAY THAT THIS HAS BEEN RESOLVED BY RONNY'S ACCEPTING A POST WITHIN THE AGENCY, FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH ROSTON ON NEGOTIATING POSITIONS SET BY REAGAN.

ROSTON, 68, WAS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS - THE NO. 3 JOB IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT - DURING THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION. AFTER LEAVING THE GOVERNMENT, HE BECAME A STRONG ADVOCATE OF BUILDING UP U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH.

AS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS IN 1976 OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRESENT DANGER, ROSTON PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN WORKING TO CHANGE U.S. PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD SUPPORTING LARGER ARMED FORCES. A DEMOCRAT, HE SUPPORTED REAGAN IN THE 1980 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE ISSUES IN WHICH THE ARMS CONTROL AGENCY WILL BECOME INVOLVED IS REAGAN'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SELL EARLY-WARNING RADAR PLANES, KNOWN AS AWACS, TO SAUDI ARABIA DESPITE ISRAELI OPPOSITION. THE AGENCY IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO ADVISE CONGRESS ON FOREIGN ARMS SALES.

ROSTON SAID WEDNESDAY, "I HAVE NO OPINION WHATEVER ON AWACS, NO POSITION ON IT," AND HE HAD NOT EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO CONTEMPLATE THE ISSUE. THE ONLY QUESTION ON AWACS WOULD BE THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID.

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RONNY WAS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF IN SALT II NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLETED IN 1979, HE RETIRED FROM THE ARMY AND PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE TREATY AS INADEQUATE TO PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS. DURING THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON IT IN 1979, BEFORE THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN HALTED FURTHER CONSIDERATION, RONNY ADVISED SENATORS OPPOSING THE TREATY.

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